

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 3-7 are pending herein. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to correct matters of form. The subject matter of cancelled claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1. New dependent claim 7 has been added as supported by Fig. 3 of the present application, for example.

1. Claims 1-6 were rejected under §102(b) over Wells. To the extent that this rejection may be applied against the amended or new claims, it is respectfully traversed.

As amended, claim 1 recites a conveyer oven wherein the foods are conveyed to the upper portion of the heating chamber after passing the entrance port, the heating means blows hot air on the food, and then the foods are conveyed downward to be carried out from the exit port.

Wells discloses a conveyer oven that heats food by radiation from interior surfaces such as the floor and roof of the heating chamber rather than using hot air. Wells, in column 6, lines 25-27, states that "heating of such products, is not, however, carried out by the presence of a heated atmosphere, except to a secondary extent." Wells, in column 7, lines 21-25, describes the air in the chamber as "trapped and relatively quiescent." This statement actually teaches away from the present invention as quiescent air, defined as motionless or quiet air, will not cook food. The relatively cooler food would create a boundary layer of cool air that would not be readily displaced by warmer air when there is no forced air circulation. Therefore, Wells fails to disclose a heating means that blows hot air on the food, as recited in claim 1. Since claims 3-7 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, those claims are also believed to be allowable over the prior art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

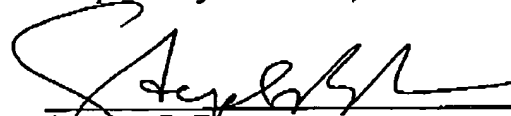
If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicant's attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicant's attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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